

SOUTH PARK ELEMENTARY CENTER 2021-2022 FAMILY GUIDE



HOMEROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Elementary Center homeroom assignments for first through fourth grades will be available in PowerSchool beginning on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 under the Schedule tab. Students in kindergarten and new students will receive homeroom assignments and information about how to set up their PowerSchool and Parent Portal accounts at orientation. If you cannot attend Orientation, please contact the elementary center office.

When reviewing your child's schedule in PowerSchool, you will notice one schedule change from last school year. All students' special classes are scheduled by day. This means, a student will have one specials class every Monday, another specials class every Tuesday, etc. This rotation will not change during the school year. So the specials class for your child on Monday will be the same every Monday throughout the year.

When the district shared its health and safety plan in July, we noted that elementary center specials classes would return to their normal locations (art room, gymnasium, etc.). However, due to a significant increase in enrollment since that document was shared with families, we have needed to make a change to room assignments. This year, Mrs. Casale, our technology teacher, will go into students' classrooms. All other specials (music, library, gym, and art) will return to their pre-pandemic locations throughout the building.



POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

To learn more about the PowerSchool Parent Portal including an overview, instructions on how to create a Parent Portal account, and how to link additional students to an existing Parent Portal Account visit our Parent Portal website at sparksd.org/2021-2022/PowerSchool



CANVAS

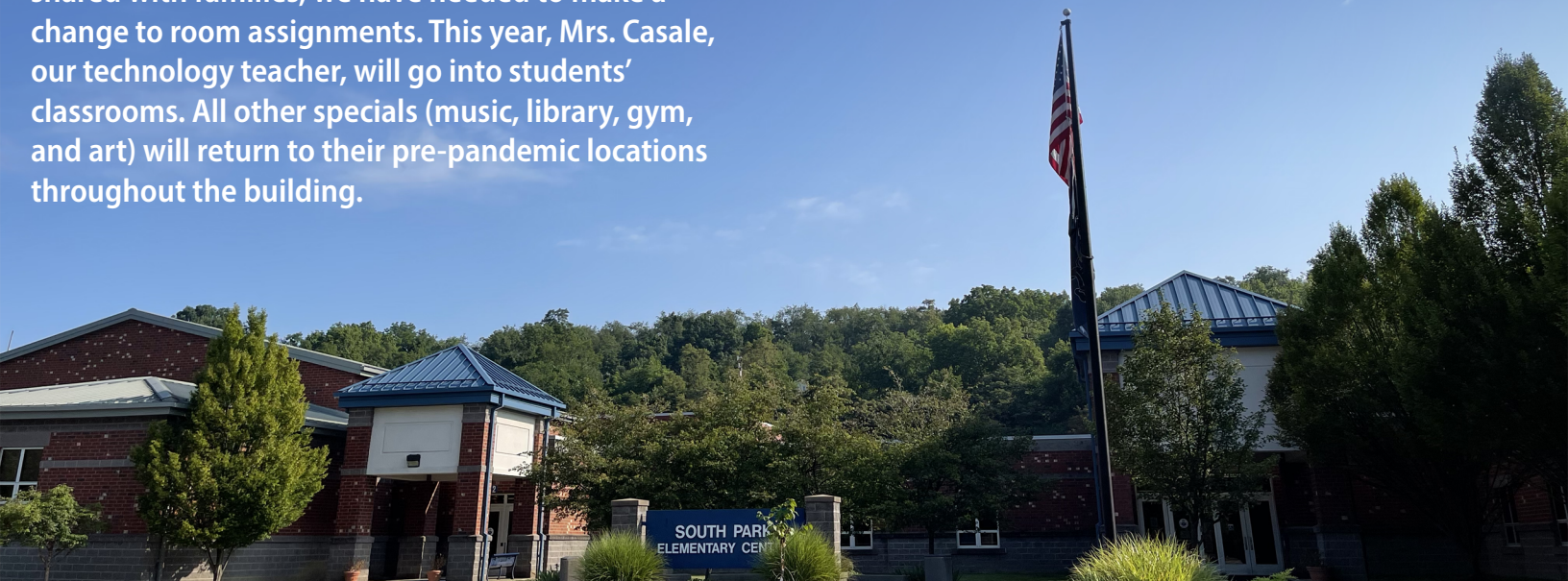
Canvas is the learning management system used for all elementary center in-person students. Canvas is where students will find assignments, announcements and other course information to support learning throughout the year. Visit sparksd.org/2021-2022/canvas for more information.



SCHOOL DAY REMINDERS

All students are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to use at water bottle refill stations. Single-use plastic bottles cannot be used at these stations.

Also, locker use has been reinstated for students in third and fourth grades for the school year.

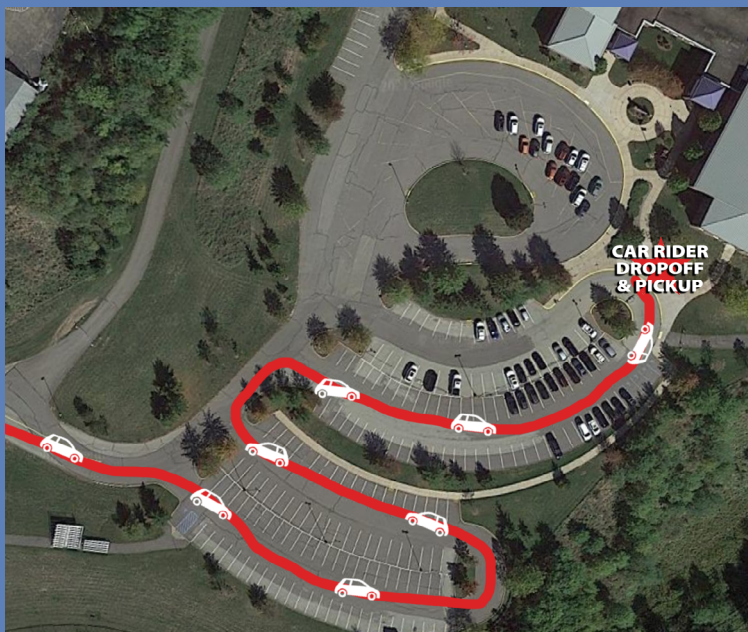




ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Elementary Center car-rider drop-off is from 8:45-9 a.m. Classes begin at 9 a.m. Any student arriving after 9 a.m. will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the school office. Please note the updated morning times.

When dropping off your child in the morning, please follow the traffic pattern detailed below. While we expect more students to ride the bus this year, there can still be significant traffic on campus during the drop-off window, so your patience and adherence to district personnel and signage is needed. Please drive carefully on campus!



- Pull up to the sign that states "Pull Up To Here" in the drop-off area
- Children must exit the vehicle from the curb-side
- Please do not use your cell-phone during drop-off
- Avoid large gaps between vehicles
- Follow directions of the school police or staff member
- Drivers are not to exit their vehicles in the drop-off zone

Dismissal at South Park Elementary Center will begin at 3:40 p.m. Those authorized to pick-up their children may begin arriving around 3:30 p.m. The elementary center will once again use a number-based system, like last year, for pick-up, where car riders will receive a number (at the beginning of the year) to place on their backpacks. The authorized adult will receive a card with that same number. This is to ensure the safety of students. All adults picking up students must be authorized by the parent/guardian. Contact the elementary center office with any questions.



BREAKFAST & LUNCH

All elementary center students will eat in the cafeteria this year, and the cafeteria setup will return to normal, with a few minor adjustments to maximize spacing where possible.

In the 2021-2022 school year, all students may receive one (1) free breakfast and one (1) free lunch per school day. Students must pay for any additional meals and all a la carte items.

More information will be available on the Food Services page at sparksd.org/departments/south_park_food_services.



SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Grade-level suggested supply lists are available at sparksd.org/2021-2022/k-8supplylists. If you have questions or need assistance with school supplies, please contact your child's school office or school counselor.



ELEMENTARY CENTER HANDBOOK

The South Park Elementary Center 2021-2022 Parent/Student Handbook is now available online at spec.sparksd.org/academics/student_handbook. It is the responsibility of all elementary center parents to review the handbook and be familiar with the policies and procedures outlined therein.



FIRST DAY VERIFICATION FORM

All in-person students will receive a Verification Form at the beginning of the school year. This form will outline all of the contact information (addresses, email addresses, phone numbers) we have in our system for your child. All families are to review the verification form, note any changes, add any emergency contacts and return the completed form to their homeroom teacher by Wednesday, September 1.



OFFICE E-FORMS

This school year, the South Park School District will continue to use electronic forms for attendance excuses, early dismissal requests and tardy/late arrivals. The forms are currently being prepared for this school year. The links will soon be posted on the elementary center website and at the main entrance of the building with QR codes.



RECESS

Recess at South Park Elementary Center will return to a much more traditional setup this school year. The only change is that the elementary center blue-and-white playground is currently unavailable. When recess is outdoors, there will no longer be stations like last year. Students can participate in whichever activity they choose. Recess items like balls, hula-hoops, etc. will be available for use.

The elementary center tries to get students outside whenever possible. So please have your children prepared, especially in the cold weather months, for outdoor recess. The exceptions are when it is raining, snowing or when the temperature or windchill are below 32.

When recess must be held indoors, it will be held in students' classrooms, not the gymnasium, due to scheduling issues. During indoor recess, it has been customary to let students bring certain items with which to play. It should be noted that nothing the child brings to indoor recess is allowed to be traded, bought or sold. This will result in a school consequence. The South Park School District is not responsible for student's personal items.

Acceptable items include, reading/coloring books, dolls/stuffed animals and Matchbox cars. Some items that are not allowed would include (but not limited to) trading cards, playing cards, figures for trading, personal electronic devices, anything of personal or financial value and fidget spinners.



CLASSROOM SNACKS

Due to food allergies and dietary restrictions, food treats from home will not be passed out in the classroom. If your child is celebrating a special day, we strongly encourage non-food items. If you send in a food item, it must be individually wrapped so that it can be sent home. Treats that are not individually wrapped will not be passed out.



ATTENDANCE

A maximum of 10 days of lawful absences, verified by parental notification may be permitted during a school year. Each absence beyond a total of 10 days during a school year will require a state licensed physician's excuse. Parents/guardians are to review the district's attendance policy outlined in the student/parent book at [spec. sparksd.org/academics/student_handbook](https://sparksd.org/academics/student_handbook).



TRANSPORTATION

Students are not permitted to ride to or from South Park Elementary Center on another student's bus, per District Policy. In addition, students will ride only their assigned bus.

South Park School District procedures require an authorized adult to accompany kindergarten students to and from the bus stop. If an adult is not present to meet a kindergarten student at the dismissal bus stop, the child will be transported back to school where a parent or guardian will need to sign out the child.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. L. Robert Furman, Principal
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(412) 655-3111, option 3

Mr. Brandon Smoker, Food Services Director
brandon.smoker@sparksd.org
(412) 655-3111, extension 2930

Mr. Isaac Tarbell, Director of Special Education
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(412) 655-3111, option 5

Mrs. Kari Havel, Counselor
kari.havel@sparksd.org
(412) 655-3111, extension 4406

Mrs. Kim Mosi, School Nurse
kim.mosi@sparksd.org
(412) 655-3111, extension 4040

Matthews Bus Company
412-384-8810